

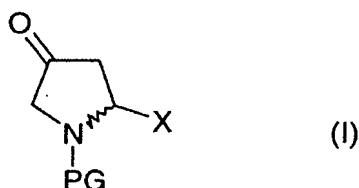
**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice. Please add new claims 5-24 as shown below in the list of claims.

**List of Claims**

1-4. Cancelled.

5. (New) A process for preparing N-protected 4-ketoproline derivatives of the general formula (I):



in which

X is an acid, ester or amide function,

PG is an N-protective group which comprises a carbonyl function and is bonded via this function to the nitrogen,

said process comprising oxidizing a 4-hydroxyproline compound with an oxidizing agent in the presence of catalytically active ruthenium compounds,

wherein the oxidation is carried out in an aqueous one-phase system, and the oxidation product (I) is allowed to crystallize out during the addition of said oxidizing agent.

6. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

7. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

8. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

9. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein said oxidizing agent is a hypohalite, halate or perhalate salt.
10. (New) The process of claim 9, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
11. (New) The process of claim 9, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
12. (New) The process of claim 9, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
13. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein seed crystals are added to the reaction mixture after addition of 50% of said oxidizing agent.
14. (New) The process of claim 13, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
15. (New) The process of claim 13, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
16. (New) The process of claim 13, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
17. (New) The process of claim 13, wherein said oxidizing agent is a hypohalite, halate or perhalate salt.
18. (New) The process of claim 17, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
19. (New) The process of claim 17, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

20. (New) The process of claim 17, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
21. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein said oxidizing agent is sodium periodate and wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
22. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein the oxidation takes place in a purely aqueous solvent and the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
23. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein said aqueous solvent also includes a water-soluble organic solvent and the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
24. (New) The process of claim 23, wherein said oxidizing agent is sodium periodate.